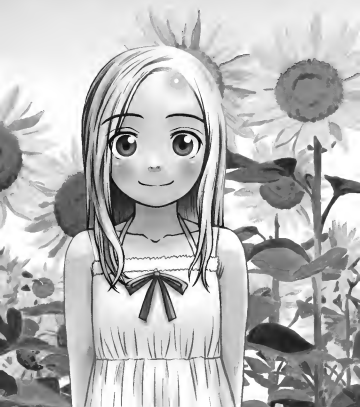






CHAPTER 01

A GIRL FILLED WITH HOPES AND DREAMS



S I L V E R N I N A







LEFT
TOKYO.

IT'S
HOT...

THIS
SUMMER, I
SHIMAZAKI-
SHUTARO...



...



I
DIDN'T
DECIDE
TO
RETURN
TO MY
FAMILY
HOME

MY
SAVINGS
WERE
GETTING
TOO LOW
FOR MY
OWN
COMFORT.



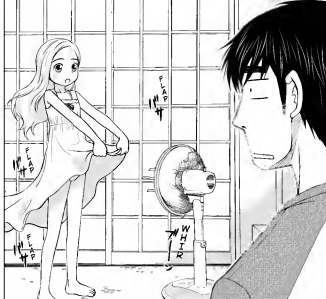
BEWARE
OF
FALLING
ROCKS

I LOST
MY JOB
ABOUT
A YEAR
AGO.



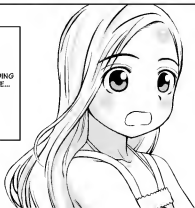
AFTER
THAT,
I COULDN'T
FIND
ANOTHER
JOB.





STANDING
THERE...

THERE WAS
A LITTLE
FOREIGN
GIRL
I HADN'T
SEEN
BEFORE











HA
HA
HA

DESPITE
BEING MY
SISTER'S
DAUGHTER.

SHE'S
GOT SILVER
HAIR, BLUE
EYES AND
WHITE SKIN -
A TOTAL
FOREIGNER.



NOW, SHE
WORKS FOR
A LARGE
FURNITURE
MAKER, AND IS
DOING HER
BEST AS
A SINGLE
MOTHER.

HOWEVER,
MY SISTER
GOT A
DIVORCE
6 YEARS
AGO.



DOES
THAT MEAN
NINE-CHAN
IS HOME,
TOO?

YORO
ISN'T
HERE.

HUH?



WHAT?

...

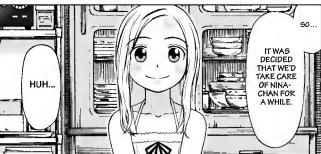


MY OLDER
SISTER,
YORO, WAS
ALREADY
INTERESTED
IN
SCANDINAVIAN
INTERIOR
DESIGN.

AND WENT
TO STUDY
ABROAD IN
FINLAND
AFTER
GRADUATING
FROM
HIGH SCHOOL.

WHEN
SHE WAS
22, SHE
MARRIED A
FINNISH MAN
AND HAD
NINA THE
FOLLOWING
YEAR.







DON'T
GIVE ME
"HUH?".

HUH?

BY THE
WAY,
WHAT
ARE YOUR
PLANS?



DO YOU
HAVEN'T
DECIDED
ON
ANYTHING
YET?

THEN...



OR DO
YOU PLAN
ON GOING
BACK TO
TOKYO?

ARE YOU
PLANNING
ON
FINDING
WORK
HERE?



I'M NOT
SURE
YET.

...



HUH?

WOULD
YOU MIND
TAKING
CARE OF
NINA-CHAN?



WE WERE
ACTUALLY
JUST
TRYING TO
FIGURE
THIS OUT.

WHY
ME?



SO I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
LEAVING
HER BY
HERSELF.

BUT
NINA-
CHAN
HASN'T
BEEN IN
JAPAN
FOR
VERY
LONG,

WHAT
ABOUT
SCHOOL?



AND I
HAVE TO
HELP
TAMURA-
SAN IN THE
FIELDS.



YOUR
FATHER
HAS THE
RESTAURANT.



I
SEE...



SO NINA-
CHAN'S GOING
TO TRANSFER
THERE DURING
THE 2ND
SEMESTER.

THE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IS
ABOUT TO
START
SUMMER
VACATION.





FINE...



OH?

JUST
UNTIL THE
END OF
SUMMER
VACATION

BUT



WHO
KNEW
THAT
WHEN
I GOT
HOME,

THEN
IT'S BEEN
DECIDED.

MY
NUMBER
ONE JOB
WOULD BE
TO BABYSIT
MY NIECE...



















AND
I HAD
DREAMS

ALL
RIGHT!

あー
たか
し
な
い



I WAS
PASSIONATE
ABOUT
MY WORK...

AND
BEFORE
I KNEW IT,
I HAD
BEEN
FIRED

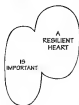
WAS
SUDDENLY
BOUGHT OUT
BY SOME
RANDOM
FOREIGN
COMPANY...

BUT
THE
COMPANY
I WORKED
FOR...











YOU
CAN
DO IT
IF YOU
TRY,

SHUTARO!



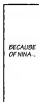
NINA.

THANKS...





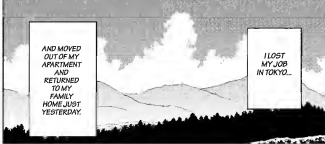
この世の
俺の感情を
返せよ。
GIVE ME BACK
MY FEELINGS
FROM EARLIER.



CHAPTER 02

THE RULE OF CHILDHOOD FRIENDS





AND MOVED
OUT OF MY
APARTMENT
AND
RETURNED
TO MY
FAMILY
HOME JUST
YESTERDAY.

I LOST
MY JOB
IN TOKYO...

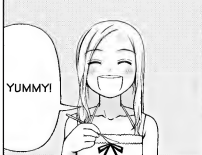


I'M
ALREADY
IN FULL
SLACKER
MODE.

IT'S
ONLY
BEEN
TWO
DAYS
BUT...









GOOD MORNING, SHUTARO!

SO YOU'RE AWAKE, SHUTARO.



OH,

THERE YOU ARE, NINA.



BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

HUH?



YOU SUKE

IT'S OKAY FOR NINA TO BE IN HERE, DAD?



WHO CARES?

THIS IS JUST A RUN-DOWN PLACE THAT ONLY REGULARS COME TO

HA HA
はは
I CAKE.



OH...

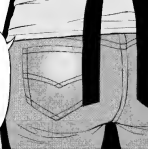
LOOK AT HOW YOU'RE DRESSED

BOOKS SHOWING
パン
かき

NINA-CHAN IS A GOOD GIRL, SO I DON'T MIND AT ALL



THIS MIGHT
BE YOUR
PARENTS'
SHOP, BUT
THERE ARE
STILL RULES,
Y'KNOW.



HUH?

...



YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
A BIT.

SHU.



IT'S
BEEN
A
WHILE.

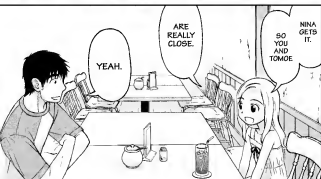
TOMOE?

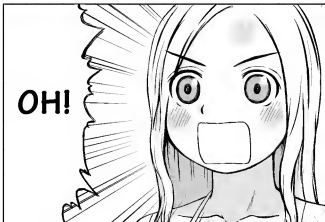




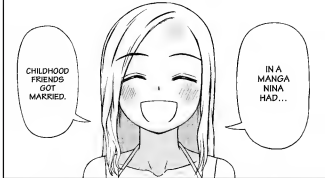
TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DINING-OF-AND-GERMANY ATTENDED BY FOUR HIGH SCHOOLERS, FOLLOWED BY THE PART THREE.

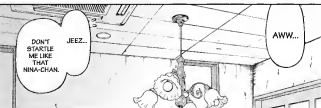


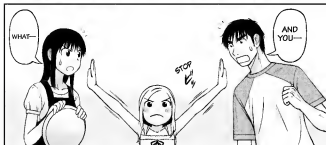
















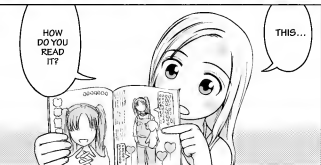


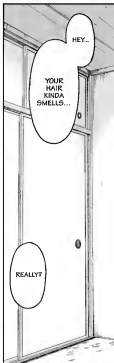
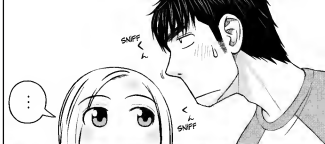


CHAPTER 03

IT'S NOT
EMBARRASSING









NINA
HASN'T
WASHED
IT SINCE
ARRIVING
IN JAPAN.



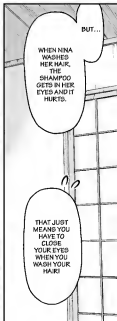
WHEN
WAS THE
LAST TIME
YOU
WASHED
YOUR
HAIR?

...



W-
WAIT!





I THOUGHT SHE'D BE WELL-BEHAVED, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY STUBBORN.

NO!

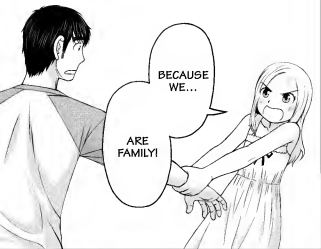
PLEASE WASH YOUR HAIR PROPERLY.

UH... NINA-SAN,

DAMN IT...











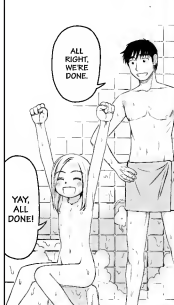




YOU'VE
NEVER
HEARD
THAT
BEFORE,
NINA?

IF YOU
GO TO THE
TOKOYA,
THEY'LL
ASK YOU
THAT.

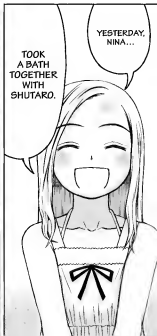








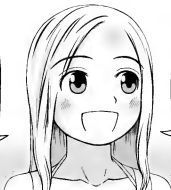






IT WAS
ALL
SMOOTH.

NINA
TOUCHED
SHUTARO'S
CHEST
IN THE
BATH.



...

HUH?



NINA
TOUCHED
MY CHEST

ニナが
俺の胸を...
触った...

DON'T
MAKE
EXCUSES!

IT'S
THE
OPPOSITE!

NO,
YOU'VE
GOT IT
WRONG!

YOU
TOUCHED
NINA-
CHAN'S
CHEST!

SHUI
YOU...

SHU
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
CHEST
HAIR..

どうは
胸も生えて
ないのか...

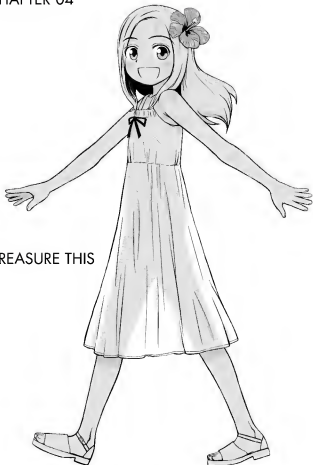
I
SEE..

うんうん
うんうん



I
SEE.
そっか

CHAPTER 04



TREASURE THIS



USING
ME AS
YOUR
LEGS.

SERIOUSLY
GOT SOME
NERVE.

SHU...
YOU'VE...



YOU'RE A
LIFESAVER,
TOMOE

ITOTALLY
FORGOT
MY MOM
WAS USING
OUR CAR.

LIVING
HERE
WILL BE
DIFFICULT
WITHOUT
A CAR.

BUY
YOUR
OWN
CAR.



HUH?

I-
IT'S
NOT LIKE
I HAVE
THAT
KIND OF
MONEY.



I CAN
AFFORD A
SHAMPOO
CAP.

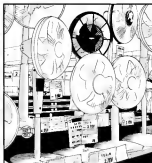
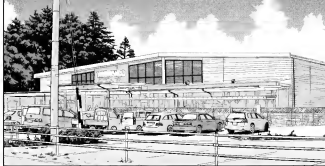
THEN
NINA WILL
BUY HER
SHAMPOO
CAP
HERSELF.

SHUTARD,
YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY?

UH...

WELL,
UM...





OOOOH!





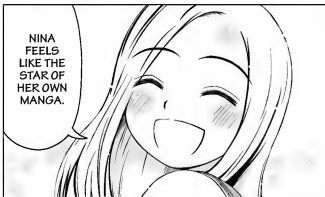


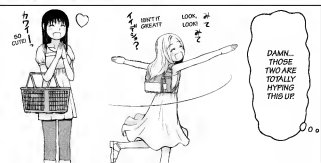






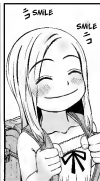






DOESN'T NINA
LOOK LIKE
A MANGA
CHARACTER
FROM A MANGA?

えん?
何の??
MANGA
WHICH
MANGA?













ハーンゴウ!

タコ
やまてわるい!!

OCTOPUSES
ARE
GROSS!!

CHAPTER 05

EVENING CHAT



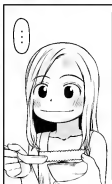
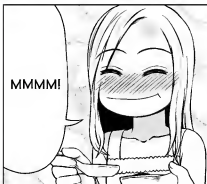








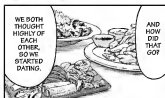




















OH...

YOU'VE
ASLEEP
SO I
DECIDED
WE SHOULD
GO HOME.

SHUTARO,
WHERE'S
THE
IZAKAYA?



THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.

THE
FOOD WAS
REALLY
GOOD.

THE AKAASHI
TOKO WAS SO
FRESH.

THE
IZAKAYA
WASN'T
FUN FOR
YOU,
WAS IT?



MINA'S
GONNA GO
WITH YOU
NEXT TIME,
TOO.

NO
MATTER
WHAT!

ALL
RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT



BUT MINA
WANTED
TO EAT
IT!

AWWWW!



NEXT
TIME.



OH!

SHUTARO,
WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CREME
BRULEEE?

YOU
FEEL
ASLEEP
THERE'S
NO WAY
YOU
COULDN'T
EAT IT.





I SEE...

...



IS
REALLY
WARM.

YOUR
BACK



THIS
IS
EASIER.

NINA
DOESN'T
WANNA.

I'M DONE
CARRYING
YOU
おんがは
おんがは
おんがは



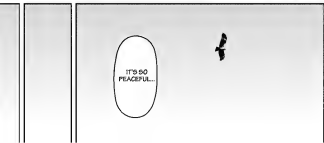
WELL,
SINCE
YOU'RE
AWAKE,
YOU CAN
WALK
NOW.

CHAPTER 06



RELAXING ON THE LAKE SHORE



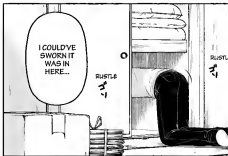




WHAT?
なに?

SHOW
ME!
みせてー!

NINA
KEPT
ASKING TO
SEE AN
ALBUM OF
MY SISTER
AND I...



I COULD'VE
SWORN IT
WAS IN
HERE...

RUSTLE
ざー

RUSTLE
ざー

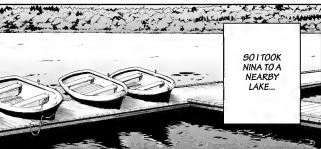
SO I
RUMMAGED
THROUGH
THE CLOSET...



MY
FISHING
POLE
THAT
BRINGS
BACK
MEMORIES



HM?



THAT
REALLY IS
PRETTY
PATHETIC...



JUST
TALKING TO
MYSELF

NOPE

SHUT UP,
DID YOU
SAY
SOMETHING?









JUST
RELAXING
BY THE
WATER LIKE
THIS IS
PART OF
FISHING,
TOO.

OH.

...

YOU
JUST KEEP
SLEEPING,
SHUTARO.

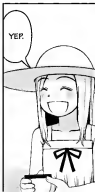
YEAH

YOU
DON'T WANT
TO FISH,
SHUTARO?

NINA
IS THE
ONLY ONE
FISHING.









IF YOU
HAD TO STOP
LIVING HERE
AND MOVE TO
TOKYO ON
YOUR OWN,
WHAT WOULD
YOU DO?

WHEN YOU
GET OLDER,
IF YOU GET
SCOUTED TO
BECOME AN
AKIBA IDOL,

THEN...



HUH?

NINA WILL
GO TO
TOKYO BY
HERSELF.



HM...



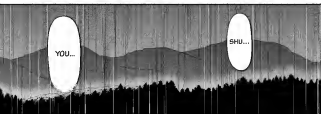
NINA'S
GONNA
FOLLOW
HER
DREAMS.

BECAUSE
THAT'S
NINA'S
DREAM.



AFTER
ALL,
YOU
ONLY LIVE
ONCE.







I'M
REALLY
SORRY...

I'M
GOING
TO START
CHARGING
YOU.



I'M
NOT
YOUR
TAXI.



I'M
GONNA
GET MAD
SOON.



SHUTARO
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY,
SO PLEASE
FORGIVE
HIM.

TOMOE.

...

THEN
HURRY
UP AND
FIND A
JOB!

V-VERY
EMBAR-
RASSED

YUP.

HAVING
NINA-CHAN
SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
FOR
YOU.

SHU,
AREN'T
YOU
EMBAR-
RASSED?!

SHANNON
ンバレ!!

YOU CAN
DO IT.
インターロー

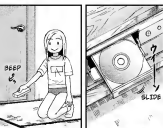
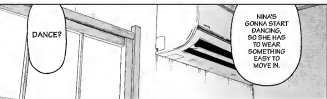


CHAPTER 07

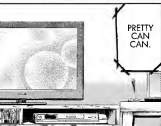
A VOICE I
WANT TO HEAR,
A FACE I WANT TO SEE















WOW,
THAT
WAS SO
GOOD!



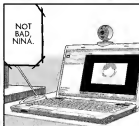
IT WAS
GOOD. I
GUESS

HEY,
HOW
WAS IT?



OF
COURSE

MOMMY,
WERE YOU
WATCHING
CLOSELY?



NOT
BAD,
NINA.



HE
HE
HE

IF YOU
KEEP IT UP,
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO BE
AN AKIBA
IDOL IN
NO TIME

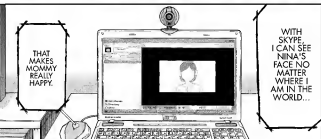


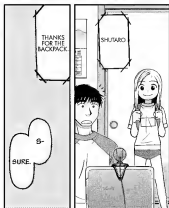
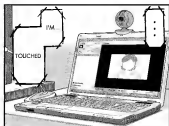
YOU'RE
A STAR
WHEN IT
COMES TO
THE PRETTY
CAN
DANCE,
NINA.

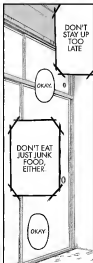


HUH?















EVEN
THOUGH SHE'S
REALLY LONELY,
SHE'D NEVER
SHOW IT
IN FRONT
OF ME.

SHE'S
ALWAYS HAD
A HABIT OF
TRYING TO
NOT MAKE
ADULTS
WORRY
ABOUT HER...



AND SAY
THAT SHE
WANTS TO
SEE ME OR
ASK ME TO
SPOIL HER
SOMEHOW

SHE
COULD
BE
MORE
LIKE A
KID





OH,

REALLY?

THAT
MEANS
NINA'S
REALLY
TAKEN A
LIKING TO
YOU.

...



SHUTARO,
I HATE
TO ASK,
BUT
PLEASE...

TAKE
GOOD
CARE
OF
HER



IT
MAKES
ME A
LITTLE
SAD,

BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
FOR US
TO LIVE
TOGETHER
RIGHT
NOW



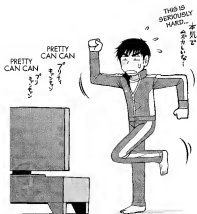
HER
WANTING
YOU TO
SPOIL HER
IS A GOOD
SIGN

YOU
CAME
BACK
HOME
AT JUST
THE
RIGHT
TIME.









CHAPTER 08

FIRST TASTE









SEABURA
CHACCHA*

LITERALLY
"COULD BE THE EXTRA
YOGURT"

YASAI
MASHI
MASHI*

LITERALLY
"TOUR OF THE
EXTRA TAT"

ABURA
MASHI
MASHI*



KAEDAMA
BARIKATA*

IEKEE
IEKEE*

*LITERALLY "EXTRA
"NOODLES, EXTRA FIRM"

IEKEE RAMEN, A FAMOUS
CHAIN ORIGINATING FROM
YOKOHAMA.



WAKO
IDEA

YOU LIKE
RAMEN
THAT
MUCH?

!

知ったか
な



なんだ
その歌は
! WHAT IS
THIS
SONG!



TENKUU
OTOSHI*

*LITERALLY
"FLING FROM
THE SKY" REFERS
TO A TECHNIQUE
WHERE A RAMEN
CHIEF HOLDS THE
NOODLE STRAINER
AS HIGH AS
POSSIBLE THEN
SNAPS IT DOWN
QUICKLY



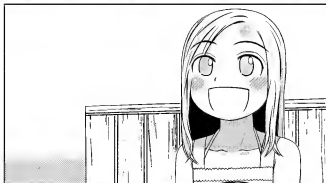


SUSHI
IS GOOD,
TOD.

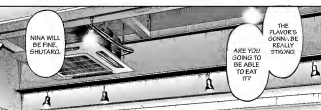
BECAUSE
THEN I'D
BE ABLE TO
EAT ALL
THE SUSHI
I WANT
ANYTIME.

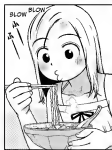
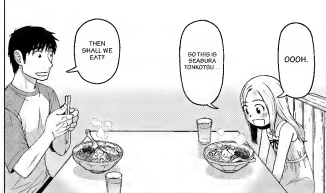
WELL,
THEN I'D
LIKE TO LIVE
AT A SUSHI
PLACE.





*JAPANESE RAMEN MADE WITH FORK DONKEY SAUCE AND SATTY FORTUNE













TAKA-
DABA-
BAA?

I'LL NOT
ONLY HAVE TO
TAKE YOU TO
AKIHABARA,
BUT ALSO TO
IKEBUKURO
AND
TAKADANOBABA*.

THEN
WHEN I
TAKE YOU
TO TOKYO,

WHAT'S
THAT?

THE BATTLE-
GROUND?
バキセンワ?

WELL,
IT'S PRETTY
MUCH THE
BATTLEGROUND
FOR THE BEST
RAMEN.

NOT
"BABA"
TAKADANOBABA.

SO,
JAPANESE
PEOPLE ARE
ALL RISKING
THEIR LIVES
FOR RAMEN...

YEAH

SO
THEY'RE
FIGHTING
WITH
RAMEN?

YOU
KNOW A
BATTLE-
FIELD

A
"BATTLE-
FIELD"

HAHA.

YEAH,
THEY
REALLY
ARE.







JEEZ...
IT'S BEEN
A CRAZY
SUMMER
BECAUSE
OF HER.



ISN'T IT
GOOD?
あーいー
な

SOMEHOW
I'VE ENDED
UP EATING
ONE, TOO...

結局
俺も
食ってるし...



I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
TIME TO BE
DEPRESSED.

WINNER

OH.



BUT
BECAUSE
SHE'S BEEN
DRAGGING
ME AROUND
SINCE THEN...



HALF
A MONTH
AGO...

I CAME
HOME
FEELING
PATHETIC.



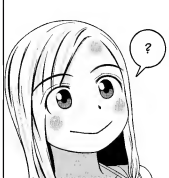
SHE
MIGHT
HAVE
SAVED
ME...

THAT'S
GREAT!

SHUT UP!

I
WON.

BECAUSE
OF
NINA...



THANKS,
NINA.



NAH,
NEVER
MIND.

FOR
WHAT?



TO BE
CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 2!